

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims pending in the above-identified application are Claims 26-37, 40, and 42-50. Claims 26, 46, and 50 are amended. Claims 39 and 41 are cancelled. The amendments do not introduce new matter into the above-identified application. Support for the amendments is found throughout the specification.

The Rejection Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 26-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. In view of the claim amendments above, Applicants respectfully assert that this rejection is obviated. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 26-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 39 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 19 and 41 are cancelled, thereby obviating this rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Double-Patenting Rejection

Claims 26-37 and 39-50 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double-patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 6, 7, 18-21, and 23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,165,929. Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) directed to U.S. Patent No. 6,165,929. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of the claims as set forth in the Office Action has been addressed and overcome. Applicants further respectfully assert that all claims are in condition for allowance and requests that an early notice of allowance be issued. If issues may be resolved through Examiner's Amendment, or clarified in any manner, a call to the undersigned attorney at (404) 879-2433 is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0528.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffery B. Arnold", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

By: Jeffery B. Arnold
Reg. No. 39,540

WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE, PLLC
P.O. Box 7037
Atlanta, Georgia 30357-0037
Direct Telephone: (404) 879-2433
Direct Facsimile: (404) 879-2933
Firm Telephone: (404) 872-7000

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